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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/169,023	10/08/1998	IVAN YANG	0100.01272	5153

23418 7590 01/26/2005

VEDDER PRICE KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ  
222 N. LASALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60601

EXAMINER
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BUI, KIEU OANH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2611

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

WAX

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/169,023	YANG ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	KIEU-OANH T BUI	2611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

*A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –*

*(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.*

3. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Block et al. (US Patent 6,675,384 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Block discloses a method for controlling display of content signals (col. 1/line 64 to col. 2/line 49), the method comprises the steps of: “a) receiving a content signal in a graphics controller, the content signal includes at least one of video, audio, and text content and at least one associated content control indicator; b) comparing the at least one associated content control indicator with at least one content control setting; c) receiving the content signal in a tuner; when at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content control setting; d) generating a scramble control signal; e) providing the scramble control signal to at least one of a video scrambler and an audio scrambler; f) scrambling

at least a portion of the at least one of video, audio, and text content to produce scramble content; and g) providing the scrambled content to a content rendering device”, i.e., Block clearly shows either in Fig. 5 (for analog viewer station) or in Fig. 6 (digital viewer station equipment), that the program signal (either scrambled or not scrambled) is received via a tuner 50 (referring to Fig. 6), and based on viewer preference memory 350, and under viewer control unit 100, the receiving video/audio/text can be scrambled or substituted with appropriate video/audio/text based on the label interpretation unit 110 and access control unit 124 before providing the output video and audio to the TV screen, see col. 2/lines 1-49, col. 3/line 35 to col. 4/line 45; col. 5/line 40 to col. 8/line 35 for how labels work on rating contents, and further in Figs. 7-14, col. 12/line 10 to col. 14/line 36 for details on blocking, full or partial blocking in a variety of blocking, tuning to an alternative channel, or displaying an information screen and no audio, not tuning to the request channel because of restriction or limit under the preset rating control by the viewer.

As for claims 2, 8 and 14, in further view of claim 1 above, Block further discloses the steps comprises “scrambling at least a portion of the audio content to produce scrambled audio content, wherein the content signal includes the audio content; and providing the scrambled audio content to an audio rendering device”, i.e., audio signals are scrambled by a tone or obscene language can be beeped (Figs. 9-10, and col. 12/lines 45-60).

As for claims 3, 9 and 15, in further view of claim 2 above, Block suggests comprises “attenuating the at least a portion of the audio content to produce the scrambled audio content”, i.e., at least a portion of audio content are scrambled or blocking to produce scrambled audio content (col. 17/lines 45-60).

As for claim 4, in view of claim 1 above, Block discloses “scrambling the text content to produce scrambled text content, wherein the content signal includes the text content; and providing the scrambled text content to a display” because the text content is included in the television signal for scrambling, and the viewer can filter the text out if descriptive text contains obscene language (col. 10/lines 13-38).

As for claim 5, in view of claim 1 above, Block shows the step of “interpreting the at least one associated content control indicator to determine copy restriction status; and when copy restriction is enabled, preventing copying of the content signal”, i.e., disabling or blocking a program as unfavorable program is set to be restricted; or in other words, the viewer is prevented from copying the content signal under the blocked channel list (Fig. 7, and col. 13/line 5 to col. 14/line 5).

As for claim 6, in further view of claim 1 above, Block further shows “comprises providing an audio scrambling signal to an audio processing module when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content control setting”, i.e., audio content such as language is part of audio portions can be controlled for blocking and/or scrambling by a tone or obscene language can be beeped (Figs. 9-10, and col. 12/lines 45-60).

Regarding claim 7, Block discloses a content controller comprises: a processing module (Fig. 7/controller 280); and memory operably coupled to the processing module (Fig. 7/item 320), wherein the memory stores operational instructions that cause the processing module to (a) receive a content signal in a graphics control module, the content signal includes at least one of video, audio, and text content and at least one associated content control indicator; (b) compare

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the at least one associated content control indicator with at least one content control setting; (c) receive the content signal in a tuning module; when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content control setting (as illustrated in Figs. 5-7 for a memory storing control setting; and further in col. 5/line 40 to col. 8/line 47 for content ratings and how to preset the user's preference, and col. 9/line 25 to col. 10/line 38 for steps of controlling the setting based on rating control indicators). In addition to other steps of d to f (mistakenly having two "e" steps), Block clearly shows either in Fig. 5 (for analog viewer station) or in Fig. 6 (digital viewer station equipment), that the program signal (either scrambled or not scrambled) is received via a tuner 50 (referring to Fig. 6), and based on viewer preference memory 350, and under viewer control unit 100, the receiving video/audio/text can be scrambled or substituted with appropriate video/audio/text based on the label interpretation unit 110 and access control unit 124 before providing the output video and audio to the TV screen, see col. 2/lines 1-49, col. 3/line 35 to col. 4/line 45; col. 5/line 40 to col. 8/line 35 for how labels work on rating contents, and further in Figs. 7-14, col. 12/line 10 to col. 14/line 36 for details on blocking, full or partial blocking in a variety of blocking, tuning to an alternative channel, or displaying an information screen and no audio, not tuning to the request channel because of restriction or limit under the preset rating control by the viewer.

As for claims 10-12, these claims for the steps of "wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to scramble at least a portion of the text content to produce scrambled text content, wherein the content signal includes the text content; and provide the scrambled text content to the display"; "wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to interpret the at least one associated

content control indicator to determine copy restriction status; and when copy restriction is enabled, preventing copying of the content signal”; and “wherein the memory further comprises operational instructions that cause the processing module to provide an audio scrambling signal to an audio processing module when the at least one associated content control indicator compares unfavorably to the at least one content control setting” are rejected for the reasons given in the scope of claims 4-6 as already discussed in details above.

Regarding claim 13, Block discloses a video device (Fig. 6) comprises:

a tuner operably coupled to receive a content signal and to produce, therefrom, a digitized content signal (Fig. 6 with a tuner 50 and digitized content signals, col. 11/line 39-col. 12/line 21);

a video decoder operably coupled to receive the digitized content signal and to produce, therefrom, decoded video (as illustrated in Fig. 6 with an decoder 90);

a graphics controller operably coupled to receive the decoded video and to provide, therefrom, a video output, (Fig. 6, 10-11 & 14 for video access control unit), wherein the graphics controller includes:

a processing module; and memory operably coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory stores operational instructions that cause the processing module to (a) monitor at least one of the content signal, the digitized content signal, the decoded video, and the video output, wherein the at least one of the content signal, the digitized content signal, the decoded video, and the video output includes video content and at least one associated content control indicator; (b) compare the at least one associated content control indicator with at least one content control setting; when the at least one associated content control indicator compares

unfavorably to the at least one content control setting c ) control scrambling of at least a portion of the digitized content signal or the decoded video to produce scrambled video content; and (d) provide the scrambled video content as the video output (see claim 7, and col. 13/line 5 to col. 14/line 5 & col. 16/line 31 to col. 18/line 41 for more details on video scrambling or blocking).

As for claim 16, in view of claim 15 above, Block suggests to “comprise at least one of a scramble module and an attenuation module within audio scrambler” (Fig. 10/items 410 & 460 works as scrambled module and attenuation module in scrambling or replacing the alternate audio signal and then the audio signal being synchronized under audio access control before providing audio scrambled signal to the user).

As for claims 17-19, these claims are rejected for the reasons given in the scope of claims 4-6 as already discussed above.

As for claim 20, in view of claim 13, Block further discloses “at least one of a display and a recorder, wherein the display and the recorder are operably coupled to receive the video output”, i.e., a video cassette recorder or VCR is connected for recording (col. 11/lines 48-58).

As for claims 21 and 22, in view of claim 13, Block discloses the steps of “comprising a scramble module operably coupled to scramble, when enabled, the at least a portion of the digitized content signal or the decoded video” and “wherein the graphics control further comprises a scramble module operably coupled to scramble, when enabled, the at least a portion of the digitized content signal or the decoded video” (see claims 1, and 2-6 above).



***Conclusion***

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

5. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9306, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krista Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-0095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Grant, can be reached on (703) 305-4755.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Krista Bui  
Art Unit 2611  
January 14, 2005



**KRISTA BUI**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**